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## Correspondence from John H. Shary to Dr. S. Sprecher

John Harry Shary

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Mission, Texas,  
July 17, 1918.

Dr. S. Sprecher,  
Tripp, South Dakota.

Dear Sir:

Received your letter of the 2nd, but have not given you an answer because I wanted to look into the matter. To say the least, I am greatly surprised at Mr. Nick Krier, who has been in my employ for the last two or three months assisting Mr. Briscoe in the citrus industry.

On his own Forty south of the Lake, he raised a fine truck crop. He had practically all of it in truck, but of course the cabbage froze some and the onion market was bad, so I do not know how he came out.

He rented another Forty, being Lot 324, and had a truck crop on that, with no complaint whatever that I know of.

His Lot 305 is now growing the second crop. Has a large area of it in Rhode's Grass and it looks fine. The second crop right now is beginning to need water, and the water will be there next, as we are now finishing the Kaiser Canal.

With respect to your lot 376, I drove by it, and in spots all over the forty you can see fine, beautiful cotton and in spots poor cotton, by no fault of any watering, but it must be a matter of a poor stand or poor cultivation, because you could not have a fine bunch of cotton spotted all over the tract and a lot of poor cotton spotted here and there due to the lack of water. Or possibly when the watering was done it was watered by Mexicans who were not watched and did not give it an even watering.



Dr. S. Sprecher - 2.

Now, our records show that the only water ticket bought for your tract of land this year was on March 4th, ten acres, and another ticket was bought by one Pat Brooks on April 3d for thirty-nine acres. The watering period was going around your land here about a month ago, and evidently your land was not watered. I tell you, Doctor, just about what happened - sometime in April or March; I forget when, we had a fairly good rain, and it appears to me that they tried to raise your cotton crop on rainfall instead of spending the money for irrigation.

Now when Mr. Krier writes that he has had no water on his three different pieces of land for three months, if he means that he could not have had any water by buying a water ticket, he is a liar, and you can tell him so.

It is true that we have had a bad misfortune this summer. You know the big engine that I bought March 6th, 1916, has not yet run, except for a few hours at a time. It broke two fly wheels, and the third one is now holding good, but another misfortune occurred when the engine had been running about six hours and the piston cracked. A new one came yesterday from New York. These have been conditions beyond human control, but nevertheless there are a lot of fine crops and the big prices are making up nicely the losses, and over 90 per cent of the people signed a petition holding the company blameless, assuring them of their earnest co-operation, etc. This was done because of a few agitators, and I would naturally, from the tone of Mr. Krier's letter, classify him as one, although he accepted salary from me every month when I gave him a job.



Dr. S. Sprecher - 3.

With respect to your Mission land, I do not know how he came out, but I did meet your renter yesterday driving a brand new Ford car, which looked prosperous to me, and I hope you got prosperous returns. I passed him on the street, and I would be awfully mistaken if it was not the party. Evidently Nick Krier re-rented your place to Mr. Brooks, who lives way over on the Mission tract, and you know how it is for anyone to farm seven miles from where he lives.

Yours truly,

JHS-MC

*Letter Enclosed*